

**EXPENSIVE HOTEL**

Chicago to Have Hostelry Costing  
\$14,000,000.

WILL BE BEST IN WORLD

When Completed the Hotel Will Have  
Two Thousand Rooms and Will Be  
Fourteen Stories High—Furnishings  
Will Be the Best.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—All the plans for the addition to the auditorium annex have been finished and the completed structure in point of size, elegance and new striking features will be the peer of any hotel in the world.

The new hostelry will be known as the Congress Hotel and annex.

The new features will comprise in the main a handsome English lounging room, or convention hall, treated in the Elizabethan style. A magnificent banquet hall in Louis XIV style and a Japanese tea room designed by Japanese artists.

An addition of fifty-two feet will be made to the Pompeian room while the present marble corridor on the first floor will be extended the entire length of the new building.

The new structure will be fourteen stories high and to harmonize with it two stories will be added to the last addition to the annex.

The new Congress altogether will have over 1000 rooms and will in its building cost alone represent an investment of approximately \$5,500,000.

The hotel under the present ownership and management of the Congress Hotel Company will contain fully 2000 rooms, making it not only the largest hotel enterprise in the world but probably representing the largest investment ever known in any hotel property. The entire cost of the building and furnishings, together with the land upon which they are erected, is approximately \$14,000,000.

**The French Student.**

Some of the French students are miserably poor. No one knows how much poverty is hidden under those long curls and pale faces. Sometimes in the libraries in the evening one sees a student take a piece of dry bread out of his pocket and munch it while studying, that being his whole supper. There was one student who always walked with his coat collar turned up. He was found frozen dead one morning. He had hardly anything on underneath his coat. But while American students who find themselves hard up will do manual labor, if nothing better can be found, a French student would rather starve than do so, and as one of them expressed it, "Rather starve during nine years and not do manual labor than live fairly well and finish the same studies in three years and work for a living."—Paris Letter in New York Post.

**Houses in Siam.**

In Casper Whitney's book "Jungle Trails and Jungle Peoples" he says: "The Siamese builds his house of one story and on stilts for several reasons. The first, no doubt, is to avoid the unpardonable sin of living in a lower story while an upper one is occupied by other human beings, especially women, who in Siam are not regarded as of much importance. The second, and I should say the most practical, if not the most aesthetic, reason is to have a waste gate easy of access for the continually flowing walla from betel nut chewing and household refuse, which may thus be easily disposed of through the crevices of the openly constructed floor."

**The Origin of Don Quixote.**

The object of Cervantes in writing "Don Quixote" was, as he himself declares, to render abhorred of men the false and absurd stories contained in the books of chivalry. The fanaticism caused by these romances was a serious evil in Spain in the sixteenth century, and to destroy a passion which had taken such deep root among all classes was a bold undertaking in which, however, Cervantes was successful. No books of chivalry were written after the appearance of "Don Quixote," and those then in existence steadily disappeared, so that they are now among the rarest of literary curiosities. This famous romance, which actually had power to destroy an entire province of literature, has now become the oldest specimen of romantic fiction and a most notable monument of genius, by which "Cervantes laughed Spain's chivalry away."

Hard are life's early steps. And but that youth is buoyant, confident and strong in hope men would behold its threshold and despair.

**LIFE IN PENANG.****The Misery and the Discomforts of the Rainy Season.**

A resident of Penang thus describes the rainy season there: "Our rains have set in with all their attendant comforts and discomforts, and they make one feel something like Robinson Crusoe when he made up the list of his blessings and evils. The planters are all rejoicing and are putting out their seedlings and cuttings and generally doing all they should do. The bullocks are beginning to fill out those ugly hollows between their ribs and about their flanks, for the grass on their limited pastures is growing rich and rank, and these patient, half starved beasts profit by it. Our trees have all put on new coats of brilliant green, and the whole place wears a newly washed appearance, very comforting after the dusty, dry season in which our soup tastes gritty and a piece of bread and butter seems to have had a bit of sandpaper ground on the butter side. But even our rains have their disadvantages."

"When I come home, thoroughly wet and disgusted with everything, and go to bed immediately after dinner, the roof commences to leak, and I have to get out and shift the bed. I interview the landlord in the morning, and he tells me roofs can't be repaired in the rain and that in all probability as soon as the tiles swell the roof will become water tight of its own accord. That doesn't cure either my lumbago or rheumatism, and when I take my bath I discover we are on the Ader Itam water service and have to bathe in pea soup."

"I mention the fact to the municipal president over a stengah at the club, and he says, 'My dear boy, I'm on the same service and have been combing mud out of my hair for a week.' This doesn't make me feel any cleaner. The lizards on the ceiling are waxing fat from the insects which are driven into the house by the rain, and I notice that the soup at dinner seems to have more body in it from the same cause. This does not improve my temper."—Chicago News.

**The Paddy Bird.**

One of the best known of feathered creatures in India is the paddy bird. A traveler says of him: "The paddy bird is not afflicted with shyness. He is far too lazy to be disturbed by the approach of human beings. So confiding is he that the natives of India call him the blind heron. I once saw one of these birds standing motionless at the water's edge within ten feet of a grunting, perspiring washerman, who was dashing some clothes to pieces against a stone in a dirty duck pond. That is the way washing is done in India. Neither individual took the least notice of the other."

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